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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, September 6, 2006)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Father Costa Christo of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Wilmington, DE.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Be mindful, O Lord, of our civil authorities, of our Armed Forces by land, sea and air and of these God-crowned United States of America. Grant us peaceful times that we may lead a calm and tranquil life in all godliness and sanctity. Teach us to put away all bitterness and misunderstanding, all hatred and prejudice, that we may draw together as one family in Your caring embrace.

Bless and grant perfect health of mind and body to our esteemed Senators. Oversee them and protect them from every evil, adverse encounter, and distress. Direct their thoughts, Lord, in the way of truth, that they may enact, order, and enforce those things that are true, those things that are pure, those things that are just, tending toward all excellence and virtue. Grant unto them Your divine grace for their enlightenment to govern and lead the people of this Nation in the ways of righteousness.

Indeed, let them be Your instruments to bless our Nation and the entire world. For to You belong the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever more. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 7, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the first 30 minutes of session will be devoted to a morning business period for Senators to make statements. Shortly after 10 a.m., we will resume our work on the Defense appropriations bill. We worked into the evening last night and voted on a couple of the pending amendments. Therefore, we will finish the bill during today's session. The two managers can update us when we return to the bill, but it is my hope we can finish the bill early today and move on to other business. I know I can speak for the chairman and say it is imperative we do not delay this defense funding bill any longer and we move toward passage quickly.

Several committees have been meeting on the issue of port security. We should be ready to begin that impor-

tant Homeland Security bill next. We will have further updates during today's session as to the timing of finishing the Defense bill as well as the next order of business.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there is now a period of 30 minutes for the transaction of morning business, with the first half of the time under the control of the minority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise this morning as a point of personal privilege to welcome a friend and leader in our community in Wilmington, DE. Father Christo opened the Senate in prayer this morning. It may be the only time the entire Greek community in Wilmington, DE, was tuned in to C-SPAN as we opened up the morning session. I want this Senate to know and I hope my colleagues will get a chance to meet Father Christo.

Many who were raised with a parochial education got an opportunity to meet religious teachers. The kind of guy one always looked for was Father. Father is a guy whom everyone knew was much smarter than you. You knew he was probably a better athlete than you were. You knew he had thought through whatever you were thinking of before you thought it. And you also knew you could go to him whenever you needed help.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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